

RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET

09/14/95

TAG REVIEW DATE: 06 JUNE 1996

1. **SITE NAME:** Sioux City Precision Bombing Range #2

SITE NUMBER: B08SD086700

LOCATION:

City: Elk Point
County: Union County
State: South Dakota

PROJECT NUMBER: B08SD086701

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 3

2. **POC'S:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

Name: Karl Blankinship
Office: CEHNC-OE-DG
Phone: 205-895-1548

GEO DISTRICT POC:

Name: Robert Dworkin
Office: CEMRO-MD-HB
Phone: 402-221-7716

GEO DIVISION POC:

Name: David Nusz
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Phone: 402-697-2523

HEADQUARTERS POC:

Name: Sara Goodwin
Office: CEMP-RF
Phone: 202-761-5223

SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

Name: Ted Moore
Office: CELMS-PM-M
Phone: 314-331-8849

3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former **Sioux City Precision Bombing Range #2** (PBR) is located approximately six miles west of Elk Point, South Dakota in Union County. The site was also known as the **Elk Point Bombing Range** and the **Elk Point Low Altitude Precision Bombing Range**. The site consists of 1,803.78 acres of essentially flat land adjacent to the Missouri River. Most of the site is now used for crop farming. A small portion is used for cattle grazing. Access to the site is provided by good, all-weather gravel roads. There are frequent weather changes from day to day or week to week.

Temperatures fluctuate frequently as cold air masses move in very rapidly. Rainfall is heavier during the spring and summer.

4. **SITE HISTORY:** By directive dated 28 September 1942, the United States Government acquired the site from three private individuals. Historical documents and the property owner confirm that **Sioux City PBR #2** was used as a bombing range to train heavy bombardment crews stationed at Sioux City Army Air Base. Improvements included three observation towers, facilities for a diesel generator, two observation rooms, an E-1 bomb scoring target and a machine gun range. The installation was declared surplus by the War Department on 12 December 1945. The three leases were terminated in April and May of 1946. Documents show that five rail cars of .50 caliber ammunition, containing roughly four million rounds, were shipped out of Sioux City AAB during the month. Other cars were loaded with practice bombs of all sizes as the Ordnance Area of Sioux City AAB was cleaned out.

No documents were found which mention what munitions were dropped specifically on **Sioux City PBR #2**. There are several documents which describe or count the bombs dropped by combat training crews based at Sioux City AAB, but these crews used five or more bombing and gunnery ranges in their training. One such document reveals that in December 1943, the 393rd Combat Crew Training School, stationed at Sioux City AAB, had 2,814 practice bomb releases of which 814 were dropped at an altitude of 20,000 feet or above. The average circular error for total bombs dropped was 322 feet. What percentage of these were dropped at **Sioux City PBR #2** is unknown.

The ASR notes two Certificates of Clearance for **Sioux City PBR #2**, the first dated December 18, 1945 and the second dated August 10, 1950.

The owner of the western half of the site remembers the activities at the bombing range. He says the target was not marked. He remembers the bombers coming up the river and then firing machine guns and dropping bombs on his property. He says bombs were dropped on the entire range, but most of the bombs fell on his property. He does not believe that any HE bombs were used. He has picked up many pieces of bomb debris. During the site inspection, only a small piece of practice bomb debris was found. No .50 cal. ammunition debris was found during the inspection and no evidence of HE bombs was found.

5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Size, Acres:	1803.78
Former Use:	bombing range/machine gun training
Present Use:	cropland and grazing
Probable End Use:	same as present
Ordnance Potential:	confirmed
Type:	practice bomb debris and .50 cal ammunition

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archive Search Report was completed in September 1995.

7. **STRATEGY:** EE/CA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

Of special concern is the flood plain where the ASR suggests that practice bombs may have been buried.

There are eight known State-listed species occurring in Union County and several Federally-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Stat</u>	<u>Original Start</u>	<u>Schedule Start</u>	<u>Actual Start</u>	<u>Original Complete</u>	<u>Schedule Complete</u>	<u>Actual Complete</u>
EE/CA							

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>EXEC FOA</u>	<u>In-House Required</u>	<u>Contract Required</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Obligated</u>
1	EE/CA		\$ 25,000	\$ 250,000		
2	RD		\$ 50,000			
3	RA		\$100,000	\$2,000,000 (6 months)		

ED-ES provides estimate of EE/CA based on number of samples, size of area, plan of action, etc. This is a programming estimate to be used for programming project start in appropriate FY.